also decided to support each other's candidature for the permanent membership of the UN Security Council. During the visit, it was also decided to institute a bilateral dialogue mechanism on UN reforms and a Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism.

(d) During the visit, both sides agreed to step up efforts to take India-Japan bilateral economic partnership to a higher level, taking advantage of complementarities in their economies and synergies in trade, investment and hi-tech areas, so that the full potential in this regard could be realized.

Indo-Vietnam friendship

2272. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agreements signed with Vietnam when its Minister for Tourism was here recently; and

(b) what are the areas of interest that were discussed for improving the indo-Vietnam friendship?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No agreement was signed during the visit.

(b) Several areas of mutual interest were discussed including direct air links, exchange of visits by tour operators and travel writers, cooperation in developing marine tourism and IT enabled services.

Russian stand on Indian seat in Security Council

2273. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the stand of Russia in regard to India's claim for a seat in the Security Council of the United Nations with veto power; and

(b) the details of the discussion with Russia during its President visit to Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Russia has expressed its